

Doctors Again Issue Warning About Poisons

"Toxic chemicals and machines loom as greater threats to life today than germs," stated George M. Wheatley, M. D., of New York, at the recent AMA Clinical Conference in Washington, D. C.

"The protection of the individual from these and other causes of injury is a challenge worthy of the skills of modern medicine and public health."

A study of 14,069 accidental poisonings showed that medicines accounted for 55 per cent. Children under five made up 90 per cent of these cases. In 93 per cent of the cases, children ingested the poisonous material while under the supervision of a parent or adult. The two major reasons children get hold of poisoning agents are (1) they are not stored in the proper place, out of reach of children, and (2) the poison is not in the original container.

AS A RESULT of the report, the following measures to prevent poisoning were recommended:

- A. Keep all medicines, poisonous substances and household chemicals out of the reach of children.
- B. Do not store non-edible products on shelves used for storing food.
- C. Do not transfer poisonous substances to unlabeled containers.
- D. Never reuse containers of chemical substances.
- E. Do not leave discarded medicines where children or pets might get at them.
- F. Never tell children you are giving them candy when you are actually giving them medicine.
- G. Read labels before using chemical products.
- H. Never give or take medicines in the dark.

The important fact is that swallowing large amounts of medicines, or chemical products, is the major cause of poisoning. Corrosive materials such as alkalis can do as much harm as any poison. Even swallowing substances such as under-arm deodorant, containing silver nitrate, demand immediate attention by a physician.

TO TREAT poisoning, you must first stop the absorption of the poison. Speed is essential. If possible, one person should begin treatment while a second calls a physician. Save the poison container and material itself if any remains. If the poison is not known, save a sample of the vomitus.

Do not induce vomiting, however, if the patient is unconscious, in convulsions, or has swallowed petroleum products or corrosive poisons. If the patient can swallow after ingesting a corrosive substance, give him up to one quart of milk if he is over five years; 2 cups if under five. Never give alcohol in any form. If the substance swallowed is not a corrosive poison, give the patient milk, then induce vomiting by placing the handle of a spoon or your finger at the back of the person's throat. When retching or vomiting begins, place the head, face down, lower than his hips.

And, always call a physician as soon as possible!

(Presented as a public service by the Southwest District of the Los Angeles County Medical Association)

TECHNICAL WRITING CLASS SET

A course in technical writing will be offered on Mondays, starting Feb. 6, through the Torrance Adult School. Classes will be from 7 to 9:30 at North High School, Room 113.

Taught by Robert Garcia, Douglas Aircraft, the course is designed for technology students who need training in writing. It will cover a grammar review, technical writing specifications, (military and commercial), writing assignments, manual production, and editing.

Registrations will be accepted at the first class meeting. Further information may be obtained from the adult school office at Torrance High School.

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